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Information and Directory of the Food and Nutrition Service



United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service
Midwest Region
Chicago, Illinois

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**United States
Department of
Agriculture**



National Agricultural Library



The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) was established August 8, 1969, as the agency of the U. S. Department of Agriculture responsible for Federal administration and management of the nation's food assistance programs. The Midwest Regional Office, located in Chicago, is one of seven regional offices throughout the United States that works primarily with the State departments of health, education and welfare to administer the food assistance programs described in this directory.

All programs administered by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service are available to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, sex, national origin, age or disability.

This directory provides you with a brief overview of FNS' food assistance programs, facts about costs and participation and key contacts in the Midwest States — Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. Further information can be obtained by contacting:

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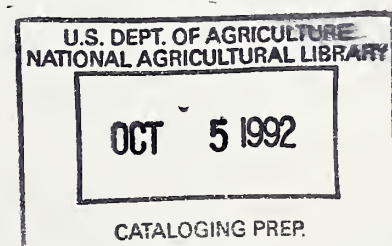


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Mission Statement

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture is the Federal agency responsible for administering all Federal food assistance programs. Established on August 8, 1969, the FNS mission is to provide needy persons with access to a more nutritious diet; to improve the eating habits of the nation's children; and to stabilize farm prices through the distribution of surplus food.

The agency's mission encompasses the following goals:

1) Program Integrity

Goal: To administer efficient and well-managed programs, that are carefully designed to direct program benefits to needy recipients and minimize abuse.

2) Program Coordination

Goal: To make programs rational for the clients and the general public by integrating and coordinating program rules and policy that affect clients benefiting from multiple programs.

3) Workforce Diversity And Management

Goal: To encourage diversity among the workforce at all levels of the agency.

4) Nutrition

Goal: To improve the general public's knowledge about nutrition by developing and providing nutritional information targeted to the general public and recipients of FNS's programs.

5) Children

Goal: To assure that food assistance programs are accessible to children living in poverty by publicizing regulations and policies designed to target benefits to children at risk in both institutional and family settings.

Food Programs Accomplish Mission

To accomplish its mission, the Food and Nutrition Service targets aid to specific populations through its programs of food assistance and nutrition education. In fiscal year 1990, the Midwest Region spent nearly \$4.4 billion to operate the following programs.

- Food Stamp Program (FSP)
- National School Lunch Program (NSLP)
- School Breakfast Program (SBP)
- Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
- Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)
- Special Milk Program (SMP)
- Nutrition Education and Training (NET)
- Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
- Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)
- Nutrition Program for the Elderly (NPE)
- National Commodity Processing Program (NCP)
- Summer Camps
- Food Distribution on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
- Disaster Assistance Program
- Food Distribution for Charitable Organizations
- Soup Kitchen/Food Bank (SK/FB) Program



Food Stamp Program

The Food Stamp Program is a cooperative activity of local, State and Federal governments working together for a healthier America. Under the program, participating low-income households receive food stamps, free of charge, to supplement their food purchasing income. Food stamps are exchanged for eligible foods at authorized stores.

History of the Program

Today's Food Stamp Program stems from the assistance programs of the Great Depression when farmers were burdened with foods they could not sell, while thousands stood in breadlines, waiting for something to eat. As an enhancement to the Food Stamp Plan of the late 1930s, a permanent Food Stamp Program was established in 1964 for States wishing to take part. In 1974 Congress required all States to offer food stamps.

Under an agreement with FNS, State public assistance agencies administer the Food Stamp Program through local offices, which certify eligible households and issue benefits. FNS develops program policies and procedures, and pays for 100 percent of food stamp benefits and at least 50 percent of State agency administrative costs. Program operations are monitored through a Federal and State performance reporting system that includes periodic management evaluations and continuous quality control reviews.

Scope

The Food Stamp Program is USDA's largest food assistance program serving an average of more than 20 million needy Americans each month. Americans received more than \$14 billion in food stamps during fiscal year 1990. The average monthly participation increased by 1 million during the last year and benefits are expected to increase by nearly 7 percent in fiscal year 1991.

The Midwest Region ranks first in the nation with over \$291 million in food stamps issued monthly. Two Midwest states, Illinois and Ohio, have ranked in the top five states nationwide for issuance and program participation during the past few years. The average benefit per person in the region was \$63.21 in fiscal year 1990.

Eligibility

To qualify for food stamps, households must have net incomes, after deductions, that fall at or below the Office of Management and Budget poverty guidelines. Benefit amounts are based on family size and household income. Household assets must fall below certain limits and household members must meet work registration requirements. Only U.S. citizens and certain categories of aliens may qualify.

In addition to the financial eligibility, Food Stamp Program applicants must meet a number of non-financial criteria, including:

Non-financial Eligibility Requirements

- Applicants must be residents of a project area but need not have a fixed residence.
- Applicants must provide or apply for a Social Security Number for each household member.
- Able-bodied persons between the ages of 16 and 60 must register for work, accept suitable work and participate in State employment and training programs.
- Applicants must show proof of citizenship or legal alien status to qualify for participation in the Food Stamp Program.
- Households with persons who are on strike because of a labor dispute are not eligible to receive food stamps unless they were eligible the day before the strike and continue to be eligible at the time of application.

Many college students are not eligible to receive food stamps. Able bodied students between the ages of 18 and 60 who are enrolled in college at least half time may be eligible if they:

- receive AFDC benefits; or
- work at least 20 hours a week; or
- participate in an on-the-job training program; or
- participate in a federal work-study program during the school year; or
- care for a dependent under the age of 6; or
- care for a dependent between the ages of 6 and 12 where child care is not available; or
- study through a program under the Job Training Partnership Act.

Low-income people in need of food assistance may apply at their local welfare office. When determining the eligibility for food stamps for a household, an eligibility worker looks at the household's income and resources, taking into consideration certain costs such as shelter and child care. Applicants can expect to be notified of their eligibility within 30 days. In dire circumstances, households may qualify for expedited service.

How to Apply

Program Accountability

The Quality Control System provides Federal and State Food Stamp Program managers with information on States' food stamp certification accuracy. The system measures errors made in determining the amount of food stamps a household is entitled to receive and identifies weaknesses in the certification and issuance process.

Only people determined eligible to participate in the program may use food stamps, and only stores that have been authorized by USDA may accept food stamps in exchange for eligible food items. Food stamp fraud is committed by people who intentionally provide false information on applications, by grocers accepting food stamps for non-food items or recipients or others exchanging food stamps for cash, rent, drugs or similar non-food items.

States are responsible for investigating cases of suspected fraud by program participants. States receive Federal reimbursement for approved fraud control activities and are permitted to keep a percentage of collections from recipients with intentional program violations and collections from inadvertent recipient errors. Recipients are responsible for paying back the total amount of overissuances resulting from intentional program violations and may be disqualified from the program for six months, 12 months, permanently, or be fined up to \$10,000 and/or be imprisoned up to five years.

Retailer Compliance

The authorized food stamp retailer is vital to the success of the Food Stamp Program. Not only do retailers accept food stamps for the foods that participants need and want, but retailers must also refuse to sell ineligible items for food stamps. In addition, they must be alert to food stamp users making multiple small purchases to accumulate cash change and must refuse to exchange food stamps for cash (trafficking). Detection and prevention of retailer fraud is a Federal responsibility.

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service field office staff are responsible for authorizing and training retailers, answering questions and providing guidance upon request. If the store owner is approved for participation, the owner signs an agreement with USDA that s/he understands the rules and regulations governing the program and agrees to abide by them. A retailer suspected of violating program rules may be investigated by the FNS compliance branch or if suspected of trafficking, by USDA's Office of Investigation. If the retailer has violated program rules, administrative penalties will apply: first offense - disqualification for six months to five years, second offense - disqualification for one to ten years, third offense or trafficking - permanent disqualification. Civil money penalties may be assessed in lieu of disqualification if it would cause a hardship for food stamp recipients in the area, or if the store is sold during the disqualification period. Retailers committing serious violations are subject to criminal prosecution under applicable federal or State law.

A retailer disqualified from either the Food Stamp Program or WIC Program can be automatically disqualified from the other. In many states, information on disqualifications is also shared with the alcoholic beverage control board and the lottery commission which may also penalize the retailer.

Disqualified retailers may apply for reauthorization after fully serving the disqualification period.

Child Nutrition Programs



Five separate Child Nutrition Programs are administered by FNS: the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, the Special Milk Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program and the Summer Food Service Program. All are dedicated to the health and well-being of the nation's children. In most instances State educational agencies administer the programs. The Federal government provides cash and food assistance to the states for those schools and institutions which meet the requirements of the individual programs.

"It is hereby declared to be the policy of Congress, as a measure of national security, to safeguard the health and well-being of the nation's children and to encourage the domestic consumption of nutritious agricultural commodities and other foods by assisting the states, through grants-in-aid and other means, in providing an adequate supply of food and other facilities for the establishment, maintenance, operation and expansion of non-profit school programs."

—National School Lunch Act of 1946—

National School Lunch Program

History

Efforts to feed American children in school can be traced back to the 1890s. Then, during the depression years, malnutrition among children became a national concern and large farm surpluses endangered the agricultural industry. Congress directed the Secretary of Agriculture to remove price-depressing surplus foods from the market through government purchases and dispose of them through exports and domestic food outlets without interfering with normal sales. Needy families and schools became the recipients of commodities purchased

under this legislation. The distribution of food, however, was inconsistent and there was no guarantee of the program's future. Schools were therefore unwilling to start programs or build kitchens and dining facilities.

In 1946, Congress gave the National School Lunch Program permanent status by guaranteeing that food funds would continue to be available and establishing minimum nutritional requirements. The importance of good nutrition and its effect on school children was further emphasized.

Scope

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) is the largest of the Child Nutrition Programs, serving about 25 million children more than four billion lunches at a cost of \$3.8 billion in fiscal year 1990. The program is currently available in 95 percent of all public schools nationwide.

Of the nearly 3.8 million lunches served daily in the Midwest Region, approximately 34.2 percent are served free and 5.4 percent reduced-price. The Midwest Region has the second highest NSLP participation compared to the six other U.S. regions. In the Midwest Region, nearly \$570 million was spent last year for school lunches.

Program Operation

The State educational agency operates the NSLP through agreements made with local schools or school districts. Any public or private school of high school grade or under is eligible to participate in the NSLP. Public and licensed, nonprofit, private residential child care institutions such as orphanages, homes for retarded children, and temporary shelters for runaway children are also eligible.

To participate, eligible schools and institutions must:

- operate the lunch program on a non-profit basis.
- serve lunches that meet established nutrition standards that follow meal pattern guidelines.
- provide free and reduced-price lunches to students who, based on income eligibility criteria, are unable to pay the full cost of the meal.
- not identify nor discriminate against any eligible student.
- operate food service for all students without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

Funding

USDA supports the Child Nutrition Programs through a combination of food and cash-in-lieu of food and reimbursement for meals served. Each State also receives administrative expense monies to run the programs and at least \$50,000 annually for the Nutrition Education and Training Program.

Schools and institutions receive a basic reimbursement amount for the number of lunches served and additional reimbursement at special rates

Minimum Meal Pattern Requirements

Meat or Meat Alternate	2 ounces
Vegetable/Fruit	2 or more servings totaling 3/4 cup
Bread or Bread Alternate	8 servings per week
Milk	8 fluid ounces

for each free and reduced-price lunch served to eligible students. School food authorities serving populations which are at least 60 percent needy earn an additional reimbursement of two cents per meal .

In addition to cash reimbursement, USDA donates commodities for lunches served under the Program. More than sixty different commodities are available to schools, including canned fruits and vegetables, fruit juices, chicken, ground beef, peanut butter, flour and grain products. Schools may also order quantities of other "bonus" commodities, purchased under price support legislation, as available.

USDA commodities account for approximately 20 percent of the food used in school meals; the remaining commodities are purchased by the schools. USDA commodities are wholesome, nutritious foods that are subject to strict quality standards limiting salt, sugar and fat, and are tested for acceptability. School food service personnel are consulted on the preferred commodities and the type of packaging.

Established in 1966, the School Breakfast Program provides assistance to States to initiate, maintain or expand non-profit breakfast programs in eligible schools and residential child care institutions. The program is especially important in improving students' diets since many children come to school without having eaten breakfast. Studies have shown a direct correlation between good nutrition and performance in school. Like the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program is available to eligible schools and residential child care institutions. The same criteria for establishing the National School Lunch Program applies to the Breakfast Program.

An average of 315,000 breakfasts were served daily at a cost of nearly \$54 million in the Midwest Region during fiscal year 1990. Of the total number served, approximately 86.8 percent were served free, 3.1 percent were served at a reduced-price, and 10.1 percent were paid in full by students.

Schools serving populations which are 40 percent or more needy may qualify. Start-up grants for the School Breakfast Program began in 1990, and will continue through 1994 in an effort to encourage more schools to offer breakfast and make the program available to more children.

School Breakfast Program

Special Milk Program

The Special Milk Program provides reimbursement for milk served by schools, summer camps and child care institutions that have no other Federal Child Nutrition Program, or to kindergarten children who attend half-day sessions and have no access to meal programs at school. Milk is provided at a reduced cost to students and the school is reimbursed at a basic rate for the milk served. Low-income children may qualify to receive milk free. A total of 183.4 million half-pints of milk were served in fiscal year 1990 (81 million in the Midwest Region).

Child and Adult Care Food Program

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) provides Federal funds and USDA-donated foods, year-round, to day care centers, family day care homes, headstart centers and adult day care (non-residential) centers. More than 1.6 million children and adults at participating facilities may receive breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks which meet Federal nutrition guidelines. The eligibility and reimbursement criteria for free and reduced-price meals are the same as in the National School Lunch Program. However, the reimbursement is provided for no more than two meals and one supplement daily for each participant, and for one additional meal or supplement for children attending centers eight or more hours per day. Centers also qualify for USDA commodities or cash-in-lieu of commodities based on the number of lunches and dinners served. Family day care homes are reimbursed at a standard rate per meal, regardless of participants' incomes and slightly lower than the free rate for child care centers. As with the school programs, specific meal patterns have been developed and nutritional needs outlined based on the age of the participants.

In the Midwest, more than \$151 million was spent during fiscal year 1990 for more than 187 million meals served to children and adults in child and adult care facilities.

Summer Food Service Program

The Summer Food Service Program is designed to provide food service during summer vacation to children in needy areas where at least half the children come from families with incomes below 185 percent of Federal poverty guidelines. Meals are served free but are limited to both a lunch and either a breakfast or a snack, or one of these meal types. However, residential camp sponsors and sites which primarily serve migrant children may be approved to serve up to four meals per day. Nearly 1.7 million children participated in the program nationwide in fiscal year 1990. The program is sponsored by public or private non-profit school food authorities, local, municipal, county or State governments, private non-profit organizations, National Youth Sports Programs, or public or private non-profit residential camps. USDA reimburses sponsors for each meal served and for administrative expenses. In the Midwest, nearly ten million summer meals were served at a cost of \$17.6 million in fiscal year 1990.

Food Distribution Programs



Through the Food Distribution Programs, USDA purchases surplus food from U.S. markets and distributes it to State agencies for use by eligible local agencies. The food is distributed to schools and institutions participating in the Child Nutrition Programs, Nutrition Programs for the Elderly, needy families on Indian reservations, and hospitals and prisons. The food is also given to victims of natural disasters. Currently, schools receive approximately 70 percent of the foods donated by USDA.

Federal distribution of surplus food has its roots in the Great Depression. In 1935, Congress authorized the first significant food donation in order to remove price-depressing surpluses from the market and to aid needy people. The recipients were designated as schools, non-profit children's summer camps, charitable institutions and needy families.

In the 1940s, the National School Lunch Act opened another avenue for wider distribution of surplus foods and the Agricultural Act of 1949 extended the distribution to needy Native Americans.

Until the mid-1970s, the nation's primary family food assistance program was the direct distribution of food packages to households. Although the development of the Food Stamp Program in the 1970s reduced the demand for surplus commodities for needy families, USDA continues to provide commodities through several food distribution programs. Today, many of the commodities go to institutional programs that feed the needy.

History

In fiscal year 1990, Midwest Region Food Distribution Programs distributed more than 360 million pounds of commodities valued at:

School Programs	\$106,306,367
TEFAP	45,264,928
Charitable Institutions	17,999,255
Indian Reservations	4,580,711
Elderly Feeding	674,064 *
Soup Kitchens/Food Banks	7,091,609
Child and Adult Care	232,887 *
Supplemental Feeding	30,880,625
Summer Camps	305,943
Summer Feeding	112,350
Disaster Feeding	318

* Commodity value only. States in the Midwest Region receive mostly cash meal assistance.

Scope

Program Operation

USDA's Food Distribution Program is big business. In fiscal year 1990, USDA distributed approximately 1.3 billion pounds of food, worth more than \$700 million, to its commodity programs.

Each of USDA's Food Distribution Programs is targeted to a specific group of people and is therefore administered by a different State agency. School programs, for example, are usually administered by a State Department of Education, while Food Distribution on Indian Reservations might be administered by either tribal authorities or a State agency. The Emergency Food Assistance Program may be administered by a department of welfare, education or general services.

In each case, USDA acquires the food and turns it over to the appropriate administering agency, which then allocates it to local organizations (food banks, schools, soup kitchens or institutions), where it is dispensed in meals or food packages.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program

In the 1970s and early 1980s, USDA accumulated large quantities of surplus dairy products, grains and honey through its price support system. Through this system, USDA helps farmers by purchasing agricultural products that cannot be sold commercially due to an imbalance between agricultural production and commercial sales. In December 1981, in an effort to reduce large stocks of surpluses and provide supplemental food for needy people, the President authorized the distribution of surplus cheese to low-income people through food banks. In March 1983, Congress created the Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and provided states with administrative funds for distribution and management of the commodities.

Over the next few years, nonfat dry milk, rice, cornmeal, flour, butter and honey were added to the TEFAP distribution. By late 1987, much of the surplus stored in government warehouses had been distributed. Also, as a result of changes in farm policies, a better balance in supply and demand had been achieved, and USDA was no longer buying large quantities of food under its price support programs. This further reduced the surpluses.

TEFAP has been a highly successful program, not only because of the large amounts of surplus food efficiently distributed to low-income people, but also due to the rapid reduction of surplus foods which were costing the Federal government millions of dollars in storage, shipping and processing costs.

Soup Kitchen/ Food Bank Program

Although TEFAP began as a temporary program intended to end when Federal surpluses had been reduced, many low-income people came to rely on the surplus foods as a supplement to their diets. With the Hunger Prevention Act of 1988 (PL 100-435), Congress reauthorized TEFAP through 1990 and required USDA to purchase \$120 million worth of food for distribution through food banks and \$40 million for soup kitchens. Congress, in the 1990 Farm Bill, extended TEFAP and the Soup Kitchen/Food Bank Program through September 1995 and changed its name to The Emergency Food Assistance Program.

Each State agency establishes its own criteria for TEFAP eligibility. The criteria include some income-based standards, which states can adjust to ensure that the program helps those most in need of supplemental food assistance. Most States have set the income limits between 120 and 150 percent of the Federal poverty guidelines.

Many households participating in TEFAP are also eligible for other USDA programs. It is estimated that 90 percent of TEFAP households are eligible for the Food Stamp Program and that 97 percent of the children from TEFAP households are eligible for free lunches through the National School Lunch Program.

The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) was authorized by Congress in the Food Stamp Act of 1977, although Federal assistance to Native Americans officially began with the Agricultural Act of 1949. FDPIR is an alternative to food stamps for Native American households and primarily operates in rural areas where food stores are not conveniently located. In 1990, the Program served an average of more than 138,000 people each month with a cost of \$38.17 for each monthly food package .

FDPIR is administered by a State or tribal agency which is responsible for all aspects of program operation including storage, distribution, certification and nutrition education. Participants may choose whether to participate in the Food Stamp Program or the Food Distribution Program.

Each recipient receives a monthly food package weighing 50 to 75 pounds and containing a variety of foods which are either obtained through USDA's price-support activities or purchased specifically for the Program with appropriated funds. State or tribal agencies order commodities based on their current caseload and the availability of commodities. Depending on the agency's circumstances, commodities are delivered either monthly or quarterly, then are stored in warehouses and distributed to households over the counter or from the tailgates of trucks.

The foods offered accommodate special health needs that Native Americans may have. Those selected for current food packages were recommended by a 1986 Food and Nutrition Service task force, which explored ways to modify food packages to better meet the health needs and preferences of the Native American community. Before an item is included in the food package, USDA looks at the overall nutrient content of the package compared to the dietary guidelines; looks at the household food preferences and acceptability of the foods by recipients; and looks at the overall cost of the package. As a result, the levels of fat and sugar in the food package are decreased by adjusting the amounts and choices of the products while nutrients and energy contents of the food packages are increased.

To be certified for FDPIR, households must be considered low-income, have assets within certain specifications, and live on or near a reservation. Households can be certified for periods of one to 12

Eligibility

Food Distribution on Indian Reservations

Foods Offered

Eligibility

months, depending on the stability of the household's circumstances. Income eligibility is based on Food Stamp Program net monthly income standards.

The Midwest Region has 21 Indian Tribal Organizations within the participating states of Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Approximately 12,000 needy persons were served each month by this program during fiscal year 1990.

Charitable Institution Program

Thousands of charitable institutions throughout the country, including homes for the elderly; the mentally retarded or emotionally disturbed; orphanages that do not participate in any child nutrition program; hospitals offering general and long-term health care; soup kitchens; and home-delivered meal programs use USDA-donated food in meals served to children and needy adults. To be eligible, institutions must be non-profit and serve meals on a regular basis.

The Midwest Region leads the nation in the number of charitable institutions participating in the Food Distribution Program. In the Midwest Region in fiscal year 1990, nearly \$14 million worth of commodities were served to the needy at charitable institutions .

Nutrition Programs for the Elderly

In 1990, the USDA Food Distribution Program served more than 240 million meals to elderly Americans through the National Nutrition Services for the Elderly Program which was established by the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended, to provide for social services and nutritious meals for elderly people. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) gives grants to State agencies which designate area agencies on aging to plan and coordinate the nutrition program through local providers in senior citizen centers or meals-on-wheels programs while USDA provides commodity foods.

State agencies on aging may request USDA donated foods, cash-in-lieu of foods, or a combination of both to use in providing meals to the elderly at various sites. The amount of food or cash that USDA gives each State is based on the number of meals served in the program and the level of assistance per meal authorized by legislation. Needy people over 60 years of age and their spouses, regardless of age, may participate in the program.

Scope

The Midwest Region's Nutrition Program for the Elderly has the largest entitlement of all FNS regions with nearly \$25 million in fiscal year 1990. Nearly 43.5 million meals were served to elderly in the Midwest Region during fiscal year 1990.

Summer Camps for Children

USDA commodities also help non-profit summer camps feed meals and snacks to children. The camps apply through the State agency for enrollment in the program. In summer 1990, more than \$4.1 million worth of commodities were distributed in summer camps nationwide.

Disaster Food Assistance

Whenver disaster strikes and a request for food assistance is received and approved, the Food and Nutrition Service and its cooperating agencies are on the scene. Depending on the emergency or disaster situation, disaster food assistance may be provided through the Food Stamp Program, direct distribution of commodities to households, mass feeding or a combination of the three.

At the outset of an emergency, local disaster relief organizations, such as the Red Cross or Salvation Army, initially set up shelter locations. Depending on the extent of the disaster, the shelters serve as feeding or housing sites for victims. The relief organization, using its own food supplies, sets up kitchens or conducts mass feeding.

The organization may then approach the State food distribution agency and request USDA-donated foods. The types of food dispensed depend upon the site's cooking facilities and the needs of the relief organization. The USDA foods are generally diverted from supplies used to feed children in the National School Lunch Program. Sometimes, however, the food comes from supplies earmarked for other food assistance programs.

Emergency food stamps may also be issued in extreme disaster situations such as fire, hurricane, tornado, flood, storm or other severe catastrophe. Such emergency assistance is approved only if commercial food outlets are still available for food stamp users and if the normal, ongoing Food Stamp Program cannot handle the influx of applications for assistance. Simplified certification procedures are used when emergency food stamps are authorized.

In cases where food stores in the disaster affected area are not operational, a state may request the direct distribution of food packages to households. In such cases, USDA will release food to disaster relief agencies, such as the Red Cross or Salvation Army, for distribution to households in need of food help.

When a disaster forces people to evacuate their homes, mass feeding is often requested. Disaster relief agencies then have access to USDA foods stored in school storerooms, local distributing depots, or county or State warehouses, which they can use to prepare meals for disaster victims at mass feeding sites. In addition to foods stored locally, USDA may also acquire and ship food stored in Federal warehouses to State warehouses in other states.

When disaster strikes and food is needed, Food and Nutrition Service personnel go wherever they are needed to help State and local agencies with relief activities.

*USDA
Assistance*

"All children must be given the chance to lead happy, healthy and productive lives." —President George Bush



Supplemental Food Programs

Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

Scope

Program Administration

The Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program goal is to improve the health of pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, and infants and children up to 5 years old, by providing vouchers for supplemental foods, nutrition education, access to health services, and referrals to health and other social services.

Legislation authorizing a pilot Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children was passed by Congress on September 26, 1972, after studies showed that women who suffer from malnutrition during pregnancy risk permanent physical and mental damage to their unborn children. In 1974, Public Law 94-105 authorized permanent Federal funding for the WIC Program to provide both nutritious food and nutrition education.

The WIC Program has continued to grow over the years. Since 1986, program participation has increased by nearly 1.4 million people throughout the United States.

In fiscal year 1990, an average of more than 4.5 million women, infants and children participated each month in WIC, reaching one out of every three babies born in the United States today. In the Midwest Region, 161,466 women, 247,002 infants and 368,629 children received nearly \$350 million worth of benefits in fiscal year 1990.

The Food and Nutrition Service provides funds, guidance and technical assistance to State health departments, Indian tribes, Indian bands or groups recognized by the Department of the Interior and the Indian Health Service. These agencies distribute food vouchers to local participating WIC clinics which in turn distribute them to eligible recipients. To participate in the program, local agencies must make

ongoing health care available to participants. In addition, USDA funds are provided for specified administrative costs, including nutrition and drug education.

Funds for the WIC Program are determined each year by Congress and are provided to the State health agencies as a fixed grant. Separate grants are designated for food and administrative costs. Because the funds are offered as a fixed grant, states must serve as many people as possible within the given funding, with no upper or lower limit on caseloads.

Pregnant, postpartum or breastfeeding women, infants and children up to the age of five may participate if they live in an area served by a WIC clinic, meet income eligibility guidelines and are determined to have specific nutritional risk(s) that could be modified by the use of WIC foods. Participants in the WIC Program are certified, in most cases, for six month periods. Recipients must visit the clinic for initial certification and, in general, every six months for subsequent certification. They also visit the clinic to pick up vouchers and attend nutrition classes, or receive other forms of nutrition education, thus allowing the clinic to monitor the health of the participants and to refer them for other health care as needed.

Each month, participants receive food vouchers, which can be redeemed at participating retail food stores for specified foods. The foods provided are high in protein, calcium, iron, and vitamins A and C – the nutrients which research has shown are frequently lacking in the diets of the program's target population. Infant WIC packages contain iron-fortified formula, cereal high in iron, and fruit juice high in vitamin C. Packages for women and children contain iron-fortified cereal, fruit/vegetable juice high in vitamin C, fresh or dried eggs, milk, cheese, dried peas and beans, and peanut butter. Participants receive nutrition education along with the supplemental foods.

WIC provides nutrition education to all adult participants and to parents and caretakers of all child participants to encourage a positive change in dietary behavior patterns. Participants learn about their specific nutritional needs, nutrients the child requires, and what foods contain those nutrients. They are taught to shop for nutritious foods and to prepare well-balanced, economical meals.

In addition, WIC provides its participants with drug abuse education. This includes information on the dangers of drug abuse, referrals for participants suspected of abusing drugs to drug abuse treatment programs or counselors, and drug abuse education materials developed by the USDA.

If a State agency has reached its maximum participation level, it must fill openings according to a specific priority system. An applicant is placed in the highest priority for which s/he is eligible.

Funding

Eligibility

Benefits

Education

Priority Rating

Priorities for Serving WIC Clients

Priorities I through III, below, are considered to be medically based risk, while IV and V are mainly diet-based.

- Priority I: Pregnant women, breastfeeding women, and infants at nutritional risk because of a nutritionally related medical condition.
- Priority II: Infants up to six months of age born to mothers who participated or were eligible to participate in the program during pregnancy.
- Priority III: Children at nutritional risk due to a nutritionally related medical condition.
- Priority IV: Pregnant women, breastfeeding women and infants at nutritional risk because of an inadequate dietary pattern.
- Priority V: Children at nutritional risk due to an inadequate dietary pattern.
- Priority VI: Postpartum women at nutritional risk.
- Priority VII: Previously certified participants whose nutritional status might regress without continued provision of supplemental foods.

Program Accountability

The Food and Nutrition Service performs regular technical assistance reviews for each State or Indian Tribal Organization administering the WIC Program. The reviewers examine overall program management and look for ways of helping the agency improve its system.

State agencies are responsible for fiscal management of local agency programs, authorization of retailers to accept WIC food vouchers, retailer monitoring and sanctions. States are given a great deal of flexibility in the program, which has resulted in significant variation in operation between the states. In accordance with the Federal rules, each State establishes its own criteria for retailer authorization, as well as policies determining the type and level of sanctions given to those abusing the program. The WIC and Food Stamp Programs share information on disqualification of retailers, and those vendors disqualified from one program are also penalized in the other. WIC regulations, however, prohibit disqualification of a retailer for more than three years.

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) is a direct food distribution program with a target population of low-income women, infants, children and elderly.

Established in December 1968, CSFP is the oldest of the two USDA Supplemental Food Programs. Unlike the WIC Program, through which clients use food vouchers to purchase specific foods from grocery stores, CSFP provides its participants with a monthly food package. CSFP also differs from WIC in that it has a component for elderly people.

CSFP operates in 18 states, the District of Columbia and the Red Lake Indian Reservation in Minnesota serving an average of 274,000 people each month. Last year, CSFP benefits totalled \$68.1 million.

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program is operated by State agencies, such as departments of health, social services, education or agriculture. The program uses foods specifically purchased for the program, as well as USDA-acquired surplus foods. USDA pays for initial processing and packaging of the food and for transporting it to the State agency, and provides funds to the State and local agencies to cover certain administrative costs. The State is responsible for storage and distribution to local agencies. The local agencies determine CSFP eligibility, distribute the supplemental foods and provide nutrition education. Local agencies include public or private non-profit agencies that provide service to low-income people.

Mothers and children are eligible for CSFP if family income qualifies them for any other food, health or welfare program. Women are eligible for CSFP during pregnancy and for one year postpartum; children may participate until their sixth birthday. State agencies may also require a determination of nutritional risk for eligibility, which is based on a variety of factors, including height and weight measurements and blood tests.

To qualify, an elderly person must be over 60 years of age and have an annual gross income at or below 130 percent of the Federal poverty guidelines. They receive a food package like the one provided to mothers, infants and children, without the infant formula. The elderly program has continued to expand to additional CSFP sites and participation has continued to grow.

CSFP is a grant program with benefits targeted to those in most need and most likely to benefit from participation. Like the WIC program, a priority system is used when local agencies reach maximum caseload and new slots are allocated to the highest priority individuals. The priorities are: Priority I — pregnant women, breastfeeding women and infants; Priority II — children ages 1 through 3; Priority III — children ages 4 through 5; Priority IV — postpartum women; Priority V — elderly persons.

Commodity Supplemental Food Program

Scope

Program Operation

Eligibility

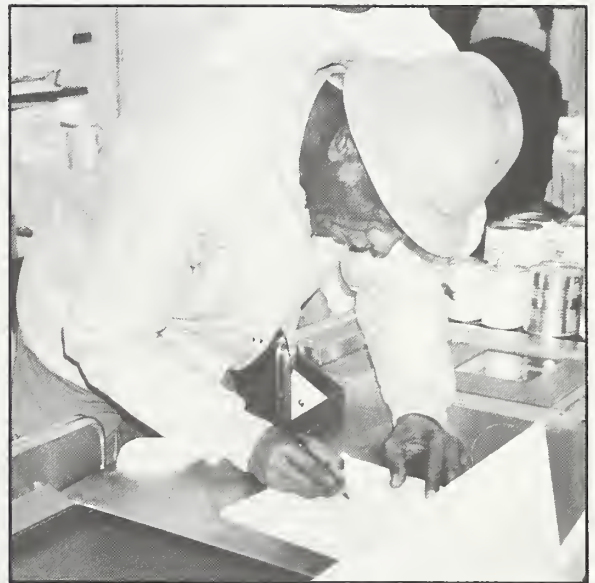
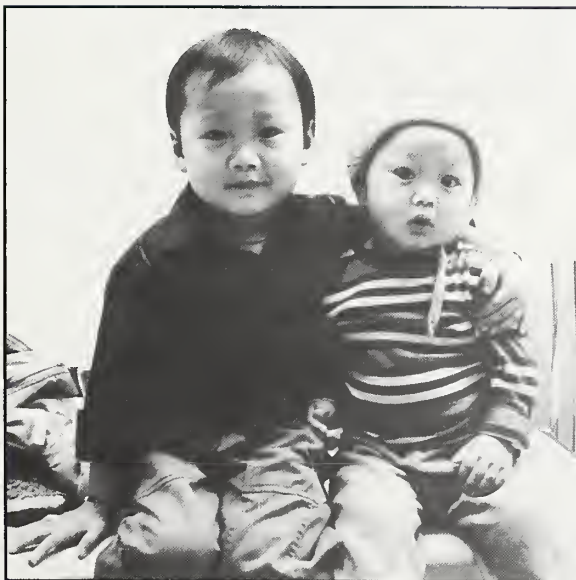
Grant Program

Food Packages

The program offers six different food packages, each of which is intended to offer supplemental foods providing essential nutrients lacking in the diets of the target population. A food package may contain infant formula, cereal, non-fat dry and evaporated milk, juice, farina, rice, egg mix, peanut butter, dried beans and peas, canned fruits and vegetables, or canned meat .



*Breastfeeding provides a healthy start...
Nutrition education involves the children...
Elderly receive nutritious commodities...
"He's my brother."*



Nutrition Education and Training

Nutrition Education and Training (NET) efforts are designed to provide nutrition education information for children, teachers and food service personnel. The regional nutrition coordinator advises the State agencies regarding the NET Program and Federally-mandated meal patterns required to operate Child Nutrition Programs. The regional nutrition coordinator also provides information and advice about the "Making Food Dollars Count" project, which encourages low-income consumers to shop wisely for food in terms of nutrition and value.

Under the Nutrition Education and Training Program, funds for dissemination of nutrition information are granted to the States. The program goals are:

- to encourage good eating habits and teach the relationship between food and health;
- to train food service personnel in nutrition and food service management and to encourage the use of the cafeteria as an environment for learning about food and nutrition;
- to instruct educators in nutrition education and in the use of the cafeteria as a learning laboratory; and
- to develop appropriate educational materials and curriculum.

Civil Rights in Food Assistance Programs

USDA food assistance programs are equal opportunity programs. Discrimination on the basis of an individual's race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability is prohibited. As a prerequisite to receipt of Federal financial assistance, administering State agencies must sign a civil rights assurance agreement that provides reasonable insurance that the program will be operated in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and its regulations.

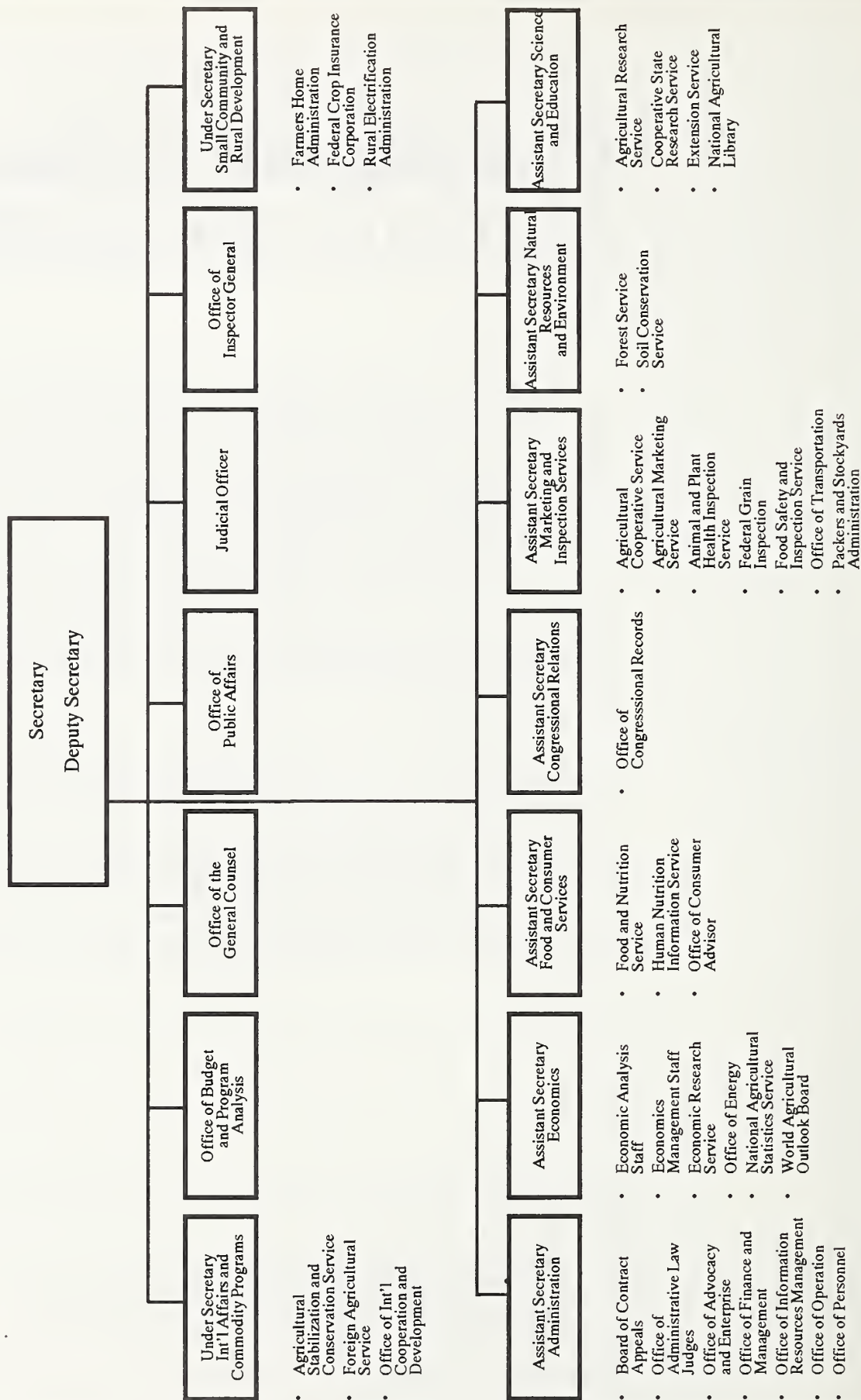
To ensure civil rights compliance, FNS Regional Office staff conduct compliance reviews of State and local policies, procedures and practices. Technical assistance and training in civil rights requirements are provided to State and local staff. The Food and Nutrition Service is committed to ensuring that rights of applicants and participants are protected through the complaint process.

Anyone who feels he or she has been treated unfairly in the delivery of program benefits and services has a right to file a discrimination complaint within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory action(s). In addition, complaints alleging discrimination on the basis of religion and/or political beliefs are authorized by Food Stamp Program regulations and are not a part of civil rights legislation; therefore, alleged discrimination in these areas is processed only in the Food Stamp Program. Complaints may be filed with the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., or with the FNS administrator.

All programs of the United States Department of Agriculture are available to everyone without regard to race, color, sex, national origin, age or handicap.

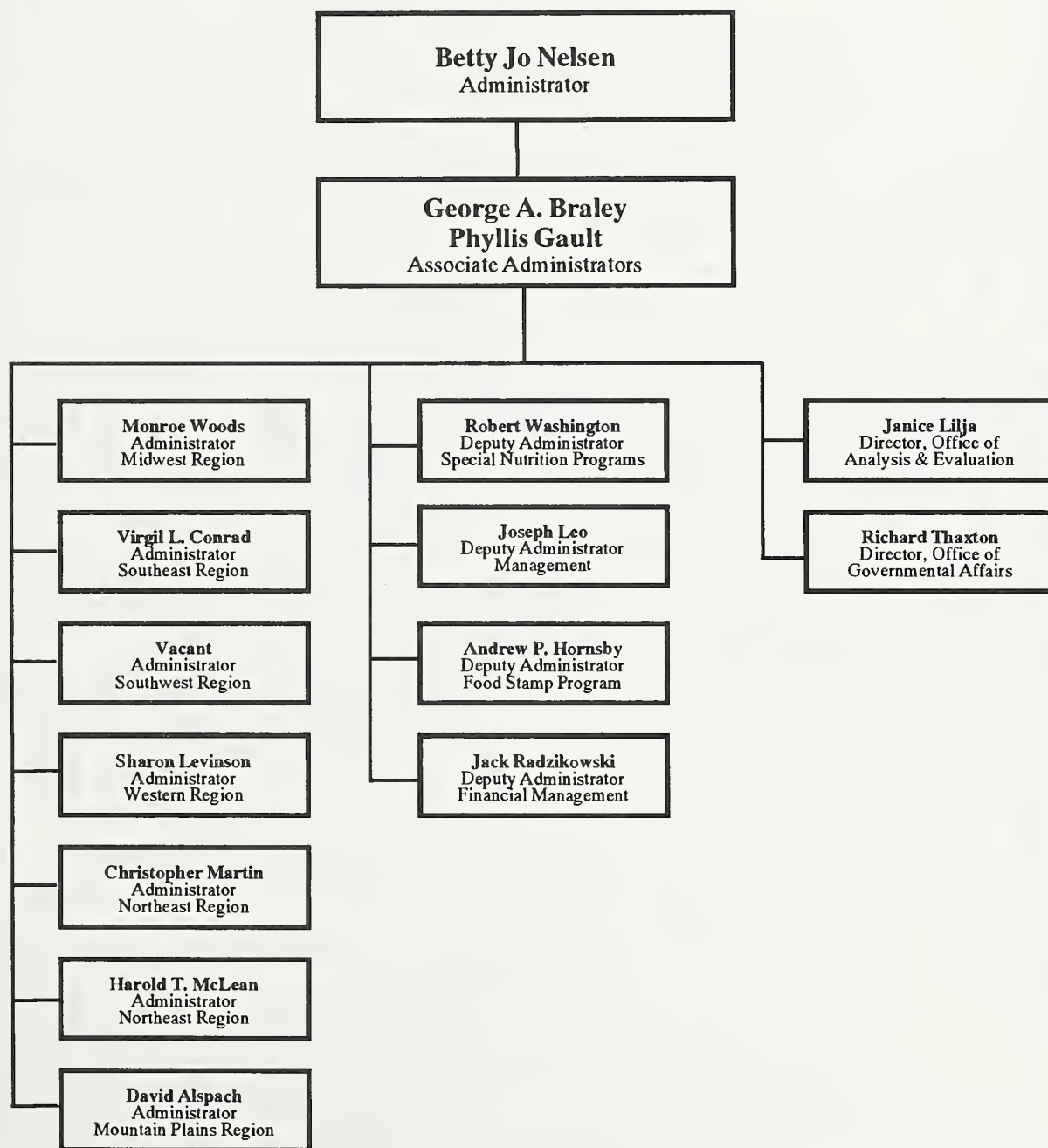
United States Department of Agriculture

Organizational Chart



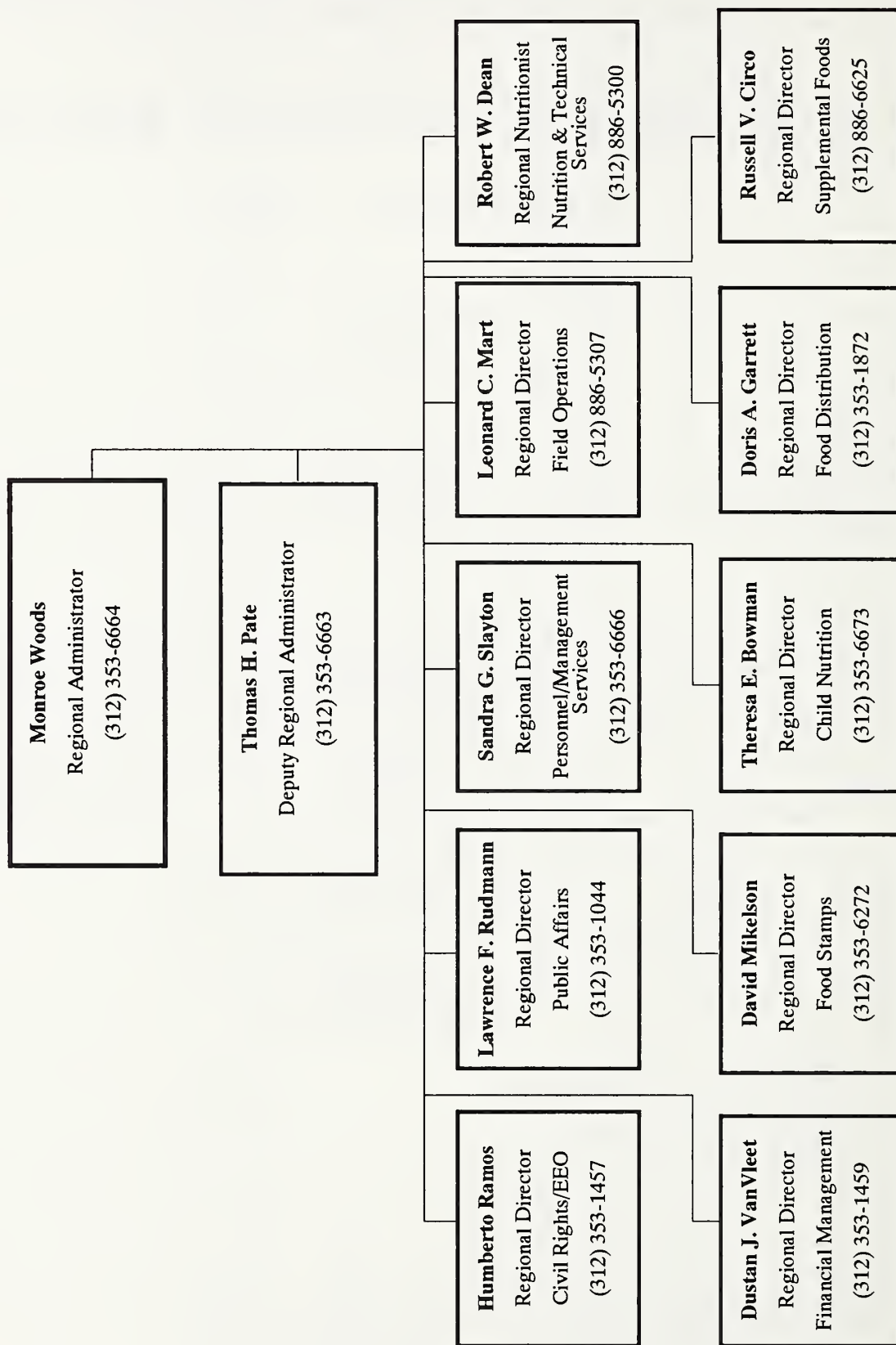
United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service

Organizational Chart



Midwest Region Food & Nutrition Service

Organizational Chart



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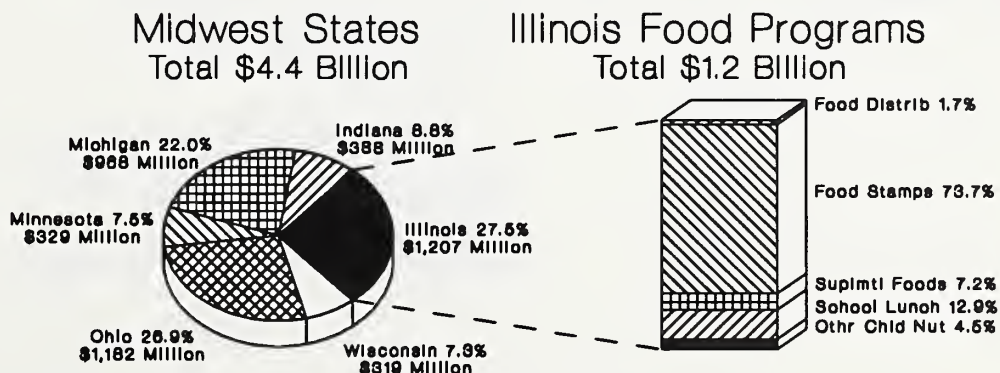
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Midwest - Illinois Food Assistance Program Spending Fiscal Year 1990



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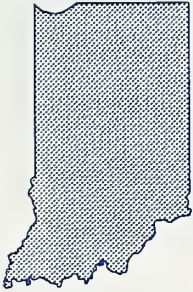
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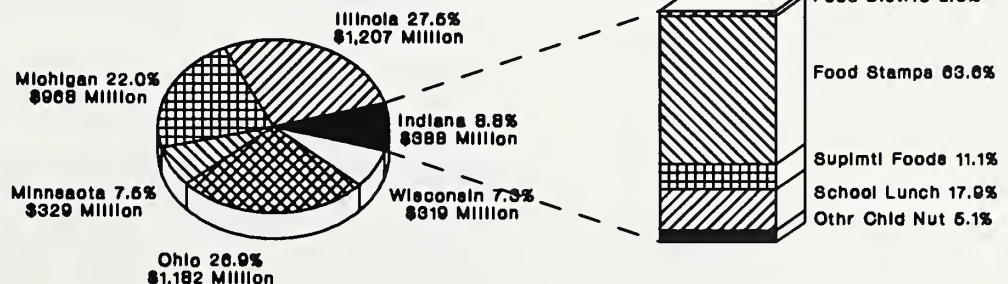
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Midwest - Indiana Food Assistance Program Spending Fiscal Year 1990

Midwest States
Total \$4.4 Billion

Indiana Food Programs
Total \$388.1 Million



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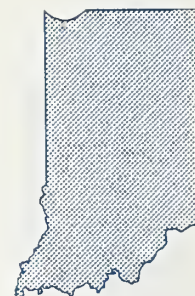
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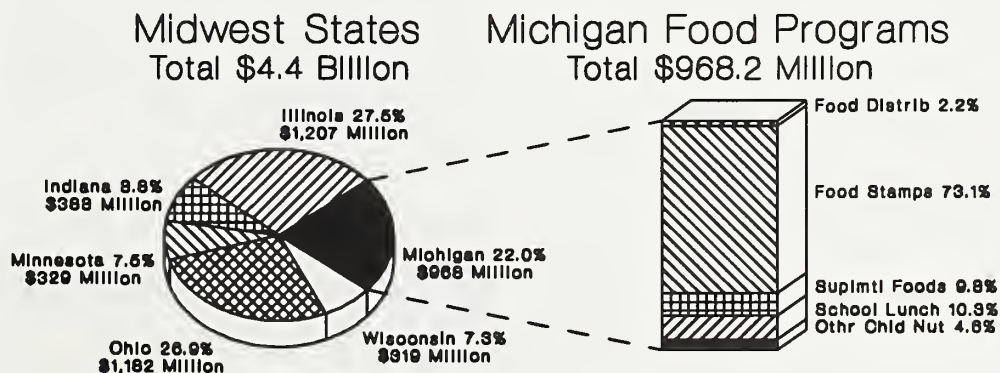
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Midwest - Michigan Food Assistance Program Spending Fiscal Year 1990



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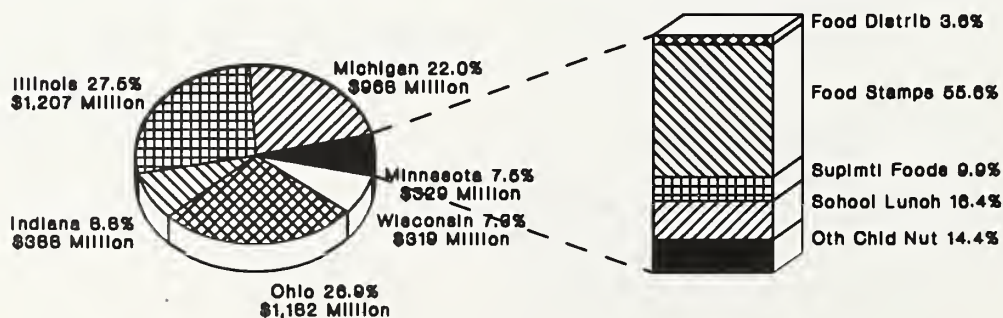
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Midwest - Minnesota Food Assistance Program Spending Fiscal Year 1990

Midwest States
Total \$4.4 Billion

Minnesota Food Programs
Total \$329 Million





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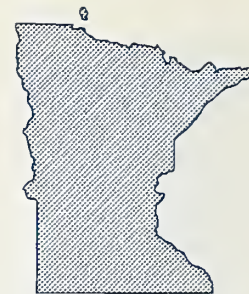
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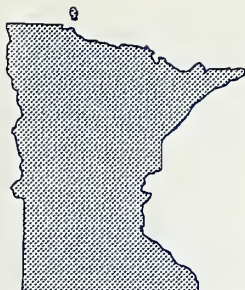
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Elderly Feeding Program

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..... (218) 679-3730
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Red Lake Tribal Council
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Elderly Feeding Program

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Coordinator
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PO Box 418
White Earth, Minnesota 56591

Minnesota Chippewa

Elderly Feeding Program

Mr. Gary Frazer (218) 335-8581
Executive Director
Elderly Feeding Program
Minnesota Chippewa Tribe
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Leech Lake, Minnesota 56683

Ohio Program Administrators



Food Stamp Program

Mr. Terry A. Wallace . . . (614) 466-6282

Director

Ohio Department of Human Services

State Office Tower, 32nd Floor

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Mr. David M. Schwartz (614) 466-6814

Chief

Ohio Department of Human Services

Bureau of Food Stamps

State Office Tower, 27th Floor

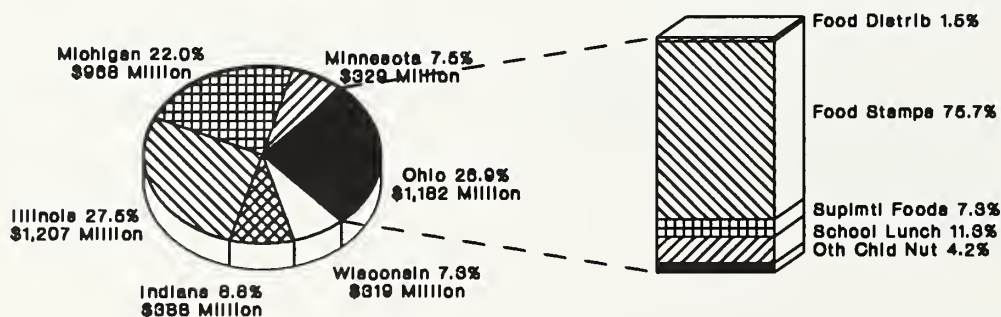
30 East Broad Street

Columbus, Ohio 43266-0423

Midwest - Ohio Food Assistance Program Spending Fiscal Year 1990

Midwest States
Total \$4.4 Billion

Ohio Food Programs
Total \$1.2 Billion





Child Nutrition, Food Distribution Program in Schools and Institutions

Ted Sanders, Ph.D. . . . (614) 466-3304
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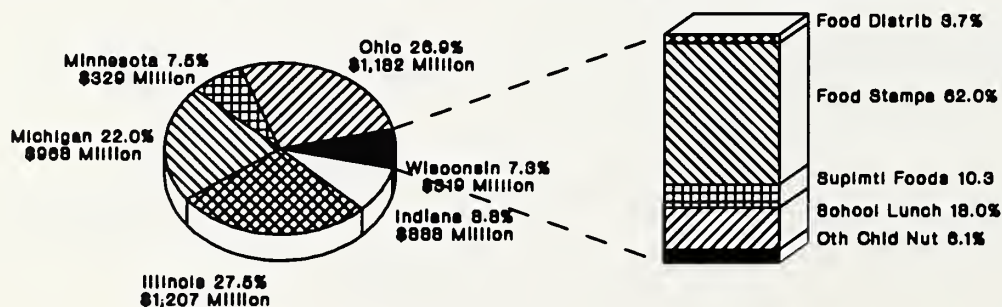
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Department of Health & Social Services
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PO Box 7935
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Midwest - Wisconsin Food Assistance Program Spending Fiscal Year 1990

Midwest States
Total \$4.4 Billion

Wisconsin Food Programs
Total \$319 Million





Child Nutrition, Food Distribution Program in Schools and Institutions

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WIC Program
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Food Distribution Programs on Indian Reservations

Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians

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Tribal Chairwoman
Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
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Food Distribution Program

Mr. James Deragon . . . (715) 779-5335
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Food Distribution Program Red Cliff Band of Lake
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Elderly Feeding Program

Ms. Kathy Hanson . . . (715) 779-5539
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Mr. Reginald C. Miller . . (715) 793-4111
Tribal Chairman
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Food Distribution Program

Mr. William A. Miller . . . (715) 793-4111
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Elderly Feeding Program

Mr. William Terrio (715) 793-4236
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Elderly Feeding Program
Stockbridge-Munsee Community
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Sokaogon (Mole Lake) Chippewa Community

Mr. Raymond McGeshick
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Tribal Chairman
Sokaogon (Mole Lake) Chippewa Community
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Crandon, Wisconsin 54520

Food Distribution Program

Ms. Barbara Fox (715) 478-3404
Director, Food Distribution Program
Sokaogon (Mole Lake) Chippewa Community
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Forest County Potawatomi

Mr. James Crawford . . (715) 478-2903
Tribal Chairman/Administrator
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PO Box 346
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Food Distribution Program

Mr. Richard Mexico . . . (715) 478-3563
Director of Food Distribution
Forest County Potawatomi
PO Box 346
Crandon, Wisconsin 54520

Elderly Feeding Program

Ms. Addie Daniels (715) 478-2560
Director, Elderly Feeding Program
Forest County Potawatomi
PO Box 346
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Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Governing Board

Gaiashkibos (715) 634-8934

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Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Governing Board
Route 2 - Box 2700
Hayward, Wisconsin 54843

Food Distribution Program

Mr. Charles Kagigebi . . (715) 634-3677

Director , Food Distribution Program
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Ms. Myrna Thayer (715) 462-9364

Director, Elderly Feeding Program
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Mr. Eugene W. Tayler . (715) 349-2195

Tribal Chairman
St. Croix Tribal Council
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Food Distribution Program

Ms. Ruth Holmes (715) 349-2195

Director, Food Distribution Program
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Elderly Feeding Program

Mr. Gene Conner (715) 349-2195

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Tribal Chairman
Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin
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Food Distribution Program

Ms. Pat Roberts (715) 799-5132

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Elderly Feeding Program

Mr. Harley A. Lyons, Sr (715) 799-5111

Director
Elderly Feeding Program
Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin
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Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians

Mr. Michael Allen, Sr . . (715) 588-3303

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Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
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Ms. Betty Jo Graveen . (715) 588-3303

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Elderly Feeding Program
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of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
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Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians

Mr. Donald Moore (715) 682-7111

Tribal Chairman
Bad River Band of Lake Superior
Chippewa Indians
P.O. Box 39
Odanah, Wisconsin 54861

Food Distribution Program

Ms. Mary Pero (715) 682-7115

Director of Food Distribution
Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
PO Box 28
Odanah, Wisconsin 54861

Elderly Feeding Program

Mr. John Davidson (715) 682-7150

Director
Elderly Feeding Program
Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
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Odanah, Wisconsin 54861

Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin

Mr. Richard G. Hill (414) 869-2214

Tribal Chairman
Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin
PO Box 365
Oneida, Wisconsin 54155

Food Distribution Program

Ms. Norl Damrow (414) 869-2752

Director of Food Distribution
Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin
PO Box 365
Oneida, Wisconsin 54155

Elderly Feeding Program

Mr. Wendell W. McLester

. (414) 869-2752

Director
Senior Citizens Program
Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin
PO Box 365
Oneida, Wisconsin 54155

Wisconsin Winnebago Business Committee

Mr. John Mann (715) 284-4915

Acting Tribal Chairman
Wisconsin Winnebago Business Committee
127 Main Street, PO Box 667
Black River Falls, Wisconsin 54615

Food Distribution Program

Ms. Patricia Hall (715) 284-7461

Director of Food Distribution
Health Department
Wisconsin Winnebago Business Committee
Route #5 - Box 422A
Black River Falls, Wisconsin 54615

Elderly Feeding Program

Ms. Rebecca Greendeer

. (715) 284-7101

Director
Tribal Aging Unit
Department of Health and Human Services
Wisconsin Winnebago Business Committee
PO Box 754
Tomah, Wisconsin 54660



Food Assistance Expenditures

All Programs by State

FY 1990 US Total = \$24.6 Billion

..... *Millions of Dollars*

Texas	2,179.0
California	1,943.7
New York	\$1,790.1
Illinois	1,189.2
Ohio	1,164.4
Florida	1,003.1
Pennsylvania	996.5
Michigan	951.9
Louisiana	809.3
Georgia	665.9
Tennessee	562.3
Mississippi	538.3
North Carolina	527.7
Alabama	520.8
Kentucky	502.4
Missouri	476.1
New Jersey	475.4
Virginia	410.7
South Carolina	400.1
Arizona	389.5
Indiana	381.6
Massachusetts	368.7
Oklahoma	329.0
Maryland	320.6
Minnesota	319.0

..... *Millions of Dollars*

Wisconsin	308.2
Washington	307.9
West Virginia	266.0
Arkansas	263.0
Oregon	249.6
New Mexico	206.7
Iowa	199.0
Kansas	180.9
Connecticut	153.2
Utah	141.5
Hawaii	122.3
Nebraska	114.7
Maine	103.7
Idaho	76.0
South Dakota	75.5
Montana	74.8
District of Columbia	73.7
Rhode Island	69.1
Nevada	66.8
North Dakota	57.4
Alaska	51.4
Delaware	46.8
New Hampshire	44.0
Vermont	42.4
Wyoming	38.7



Report Fraud

USDA Hotline for Fraud, Waste and Abuse Reporting

- 1-800-424-9121 FTS 472-1388
- In Washington, D.C. Metro 472-1388
- Or write: United States Department of Agriculture
Office of Inspector General
PO Box 23399
Washington, D.C. 20026



Call for Information

Food Stamp Hotlines

- Illinois 1-800-252-8635
- Indiana 1-800-622-4932
- Michigan 1-800-521-6221
- Minnesota 1-800-652-9747
- Ohio 1-800-686-1581
- Wisconsin 1-608-266-9704

WIC Hotlines

- Illinois 1-800-572-3270
- Indiana 1-800-433-0746
- Michigan 1-517-335-8899
- Minnesota 1-800-652-9747 EXT 5560
- Ohio 1-614-466-4110
- Wisconsin 1-608-266-4110
- Madison 1-608-246-4601
- Dane County 1-608-242-6520

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